Project is being currently implemented in selected districts of Rajasthan and Orissa with the assistance from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and selected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Swedish International Development Agency agreed to provide commodity aid in the form of Palmolein worth about Rs. 24.47 crores for the project. As on 31.12.94, commodity assistance worth about Rs. 16.3 crores has been generated for implementation of the project. The project implementation period is from 1.1.92 to 31.12.96.

The Canadian International Development Agency agreed to provide commodity aid in the form of Wood Kraft Pulp worth about Rs. 45.99 crores for the project. As on 31.12.94, commodity assistance worth about Rs. 7.53 crores has been generated for implementation of the project. The project implementation period is from December, 1993 to September, 2000.

Besides above, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in December 1993 between National Dairy Development Board, National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation and the Government of Uttar Pradesh to implement Tree Growers Cooperative Project in Pithoragarh District with the assistance from National Dairy Development Board at an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores.

Corruption in the Poverty Eradication Programmes

1654. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that corruption is rampant in the poverty eradicatinn programmes launched by Government;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey to remove corruption in such programmes and whether these programmes have been reviewed; and

(c) if so, what are the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) A few complaints have been received by the Government of India regarding the misuse of funds in the implementation of poverty eradication programmes viz. (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). Considering the number of implementing agencies involved in the impementation of these programes in the country, the number of complaints regarding the misuse of funds are relatively few. To minimise misutilisation/mis-appropriation of funds, a system of checks and balances is inbuilt in the guidelines formulated for implementation of these programmes. For instance under JRY, resources released to the village panchayats are-kept in an exclusive and separate saving bank or post office account which can be operated jointly by the Sarpanch and another person nominated by Panchayat. Every drawal from the bank is required to be authorised in the meeting of the village panchayat. The accounts of the DRDA/ Zilla Parishad/Gram panchayats (GPs) are also subject to regular audit. Instructions have been issued to the village panchayats to appoint a Vigilance Commtitee for each village under its jurisdiction to oversee, supervise and monitor the implementation of works under the Yojana.

Similarly in case of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), a pronote is to be filled up for the subsidy portion by the beneficiary to guard against misappropriation of asset. This is enforceable under the provisions of the local law to enable recovery of the misutilised/misappropriated amount from erring beneficiaries. Penal action is taken against beneficiaries erring officers/officals in case of misrepresentation of facts/ cases of corruption.

Whenever complaints of misuse of funds or such other irregularities are received by the centre, they are referred to the concerned State Governments for appropriate action. In certain instances where officials have been found guilty after enquiries by State Governments, they have been suspended from service or even arrested. Such stern action is taken to defer others from indulging in corrupt practices and minimise malpractices. Central Government has, however, not conducted any survey in this regard.

Review of Anti-Poverty Programmes in Gujarat

1655. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a review in regard to the implementation of various anti-poverty programmes for people living below poverty line in Gujarat State:

(b) if so, the details of outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same and whether the review will now be carried out and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Ministry OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are two major anti-poverty programmes being implemented by the Government in all over the country including State of Gujarat. For effective implementation, these programmes are reviewed continuously by the Centre and the State Governments. At the Central level, the financial and physical performance of these programmes are reviewed through monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports received from the State Governments. Besides, from time to time, these programmes are also reviewed with the State Secretaries as well as through workshops|seminars organised for the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies|Zilla Parishads to deliberate on various problems in implementation of these programmes for taking necessary remedial measures. For qualitative monitoring of these programmes, the Government has also intorduced an 'Area Officers' scheme which aims to review major programmes in selected districts/States with special reference to quality, timelines and proper achievement of physical & financial targets. At the State level, the schemes are also reviewed by the State Level Co-ordination Committees. Besides, Concurrent Evaluation studies of major rural development programmes are also undertaken from time to time to have in-depth review of major rural development programmes. Based on the findings of these studies, necessary corrective measures are taken-to improve the implementation.

Provisions of OBC Reservation in the Panchayati Raj System

1656. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state in which of the States and Union Territories. reservation for the Other Backward Classes in all the three layers in the Panchayati Raj System has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): As per information, available, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have provided for reservation of Other Backward Classes in all the three tiers of Panchayates. In addition to this, the State of Goa has also provided reservation for other backward classes only at village level.